



Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

The buttonbush is a shrub that grows up to 10 feet tall. Its stems are branched. The leaves are opposite or whorled around the stem. They are simple, lance-shaped, up to seven inches long, and up to four inches wide. The white flowers are clustered in spherical heads up to one inch in diameter. The fruits are many small nutlets clustered into a ball.

Natural History

The buttonbush grows in wet soil and the shallow, standing water of marshes, ponds, bottomland forests, and lakes. It flowers from June through August. Animals generally do not eat its poisonous leaves. It is common in the south half and eastern part of the state and infrequent to rare elsewhere.

Habitats

bottomland forests; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native